

Amendment to the Abstract:

Please cancel the previous abstract and replace it with the new abstract on the following page which has been rewritten and is presented without markings:

ABSTRACT

An optical fiber splicing member can hold optical fiber buffer coatings stably in a simple structure as compared with conventional art and enables use of an existing splicing tool. There are provided a joint element 110, a jacket 120, buffer retainers 131 and a cap 140. By setting and pressing the cap to the jacket, it becomes possible to splice bare fibers of optical fibers 190 with each other by the joint element and to press the buffer coatings 192 by the buffer retainers. Assembling the splicing member is thus facilitated while the existing optical fiber splicing tool is utilizable as it is. The buffer coatings can be held stably because the holding is achieved through the pressing.